GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:383
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2002
CURTAILING FUNCTIONS OF NCERT BY ERC
RAMJI LAL SUMAN;SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Economic Reforms Commissionhas submitted a proposal to curtail certain functions of the National Councilfor the Educational Research and Training (NCERT);

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the improvement likely to be brought about as a result thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for the implementation of the said proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEA DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

THE STATEMENT REFERRED IN THE REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 3 DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA AND SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN, DUE FOR ANSWER ON 17.12.2002 REGARDING CURT FUNCTION OF NCERT BY ERC.

(a) to (b): Yes, Sir. The Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) has, inter alia, made the following recommendations in respect of NCERT:

(i) All academic institutions and autonomous bodies performing academic functions like NCERT should reduce the non-academic staff strength so as to achieve a ratio of 1:1.5 to 1:2 between academic and non-academic staff within next few years. To achieve this, it suggested that 75% non-academic posts falling vacant in any year should be abolished till the desired ratio is achieved.

(ii) The NCERT should continue to produce textbooks, but it should evolvea system of giving the manuscripts for publication to private publishers and state textbook agencies on royalty or fees to be determined on the basis of size of publication.

(iii) The 16 field offices of NCERT should be abolished.

(iv) All autonomous institutions with budgetary support of more than 5 crores per annum should be required enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the parent Ministry/Department.

(c) to (e) As per information furnished by NCERT, it has already closed all its field offices. Regarding ratio of staff strength between academic and non-academic posts, on account of the difference in the categorization of posts, the matter is being re-examined in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. As regards evolving a system of giving the manuscripts of the NCERT books for publication to the private publishers and State Textbook Agencies on royalty or fees basis, NCERT has informed that its Executive Committee suggested that a separate internal committee should be set up to advise on the policies of production and marketing its books. NCERT has since prepared a draft MOU between NCERT and Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and the same is in the process of being finalised.